THE MARS SOCIETY

Mars Popcorn Series (II)

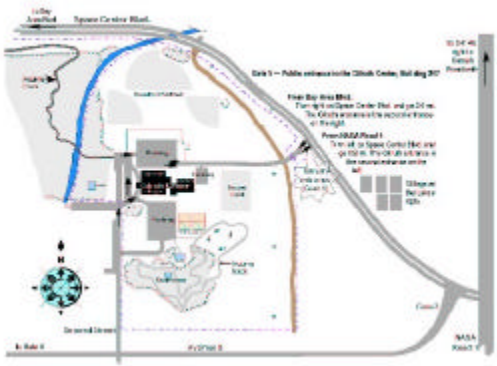
Presentation

Variable Specific Impulse Magnetoplasma Rocket Engine

Abstract

Our future deep space explorers face many daunting challenges but three of these loom high above the rest: Physiological debilitation, radiation sickness, and psychological stress. Many counter-measures are presently being considered to ameliorate these difficulties; however, in the long run, two important new developments are required: abundant space power and advanced propulsion. Recent initiatives are beginning to focus on these long-term issues. This presentation discusses the promises and the challenges of one of these, the Variable Specific Impulse Magnetoplasma Rocket (VASIMR). The new technology could help enable our capability to survive and explore our new human frontier. However, as a high-power entry into the realm of in-space transportation, its deployment hinges on the successful development of space nuclear electric power.

Astronaut
Dr. Franklin Chang-Díaz
of NASA ~ JSC



http://www.marshouston.org

For additional Information

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Thursday
July 31st, 2003
Social hour 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM
Presentation 5:30 to 6:30 PM
Gilruth Center Alamo Room NASA-JSC

BOEING

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